

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1035

By Cepicky

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the dedication of the Carl Harris, Jr. Memorial Bridge.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the General Assembly enacts legislation to commemorate the lives of distinguished individuals by naming highways and bridges to honor their service to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such exceptional Tennessean was Carl Harris, Jr., of Maury County, a distinguished public servant who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on June 8, 1926, Carl Harris was a lifelong Maury County resident and farmer. He was the fourth generation of his family to farm their land; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was well-known in his community for his work with the Farm Bureau, Tennessee Walking Horses, and the tobacco and cattle industries; and

WHEREAS, Carl Harris, Jr., worked as the floor manager at the New Columbia Tobacco Warehouse during sale season for more than sixty years. He was also the Middle Tennessee distributor for the Newton Seed Company and sold crop hail insurance for tobacco through W.E. Kingsley Company; and

WHEREAS, not many tobacco plants were sewn in Middle Tennessee that did not come from seed Mr. Harris had sold; he was an avid promoter of the tobacco industry who taught many farmers how to raise tobacco; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris started the Young Farmers Association of the Maury County Farm Bureau in 1943, which is still active today; throughout the years, he contributed his time and talents to the Tennessee Farm Bureau, serving on the Maury County Farm Bureau board of directors as a voting delegate at the Tennessee State Convention and the Farm Bureau

National Convention for many years. He was also appointed to the Tennessee Farm Bureau Equine Advisory Board in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was an avid promoter and breeder of fine horses throughout his esteemed life, and he produced many great show horses; and

WHEREAS, Carl Harris, Jr., raised a colt that won consecutive two-year-old, three-year-old, four-year-old, and five-year-old World Champion and World Grand Champion titles at the National Celebration, a feat that had only been accomplished by one other horse at that time. His horse was produced from a bloodline of pre-foundation horses that had been maintained by the family since the 1800s; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his passing, Mr. Harris was one of five people who had attended every Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville from 1939 to 2013. He also never missed a Breeders Day (Mule Day) in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, he also assisted in handling the stallions from the farm with his father and grandfather as a youth and was a side handler of one of the mules in the now famous "20 Mule Hitch" as it rounded the county courthouse, a picture of which event hangs in many buildings in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was one of the founders of the Kiwanis Ham Breakfast in Columbia, a breakfast held since the 1960s in conjunction with the Kiwanis Farmers Night sponsored by the Columbia Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, Carl Harris, Jr., received the Pioneer National Seed Corn Champion award for Tennessee in 1950, the Tennessee Century Farm Award in 1999, the Columbia Kiwanis Club's 2011 Recognition for Lifetime Dedication to Farming Award, the 2011 Maury County Horseman Association Award, and other honors and accolades too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, Carl Harris, Jr., was a fine Christian man who was a dedicated member and elder in his church for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, he was also an avid hunter, fisherman, sportsman, and land conservationist who was known for leaving behind enough of the crops he planted in the field to provide for wild animals; and

WHEREAS, Carl Harris was a man of impeccable character who influenced the farming industry in Maury County for years, and it is appropriate that we honor his memory accordingly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Carl Harris, Jr., on the occasion of the dedication of the bridge on Snow Creek Road spanning Leipers Creek on State Route 247 in Maury County as the Carl Harris, Jr. Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.